

BLOW AT THE SUFFRAGETTES

MRS. BILLINGTON GREIG TURNS ON HER OLD FRIENDS.

The Pankhurst Method of Getting Votes for Women Denounced. Modern Man's Figure Attacked. Coming Little Exhibition Discoveries at Babylon. Politics in France. Nearly a Million French Officeholders Methods of Conducting French Railway Strikes.

Boston, Jan. 28. The militant suffragettes have suffered a severe blow through the withdrawal of one of their most prominent members. Mrs. Billington Greig, who was one of the organizers of the movement and who showed her devotion to the cause by going to prison, by chaining herself to railings and by interrupting meetings, has now resigned from the Women's Freedom League and declared herself opposed to militancy. She has said in all its methods and found it wanting.

The suffragettes could have borne the defection had she merely resigned and left her place. But Mrs. Greig felt the need of letting her friends and enemies know the reasons for her action, and in a series of articles she has been attacking the various militant societies with which she has been connected.

Toward the Pankhursts and the Women's Social and Political Union she is particularly severe. She accuses Mrs. Pankhurst of having "torn up the constitution of the union" and of demanding votes for women yet denying votes to the members of the organization. She says:

"The Women's Social and Political Union now depends upon personal domination for its existence. The leaders impose a yoke of emotional control by which the very virtues of the members are exploited; they produce a system of mental and spiritual slavery."

And again:

"The organizers of the Social and Political Union dared not make the movement the mouthpiece of revolt. They chose to indulge only in so much militancy as would attract attention and keep the public and the politician aware of them. They acquiesced with rebellion. They made revolution into a political end in itself. They started in the political world a gigantic game of bluff, to which every other consideration has been sacrificed. The emancipation-in-a-hurry spirit has eaten up the spirit of emancipation. Fearing to advertise in an unconventional way, the movement has done nothing more. It has cut down its demand from one of sex equality to one of votes on a limited basis. It has suppressed free speech on fundamental issues. It has gradually edged the working class element out of the ranks."

It has become socially exclusive, ruthlessly correct, gracefully fashionable, ultra respectable and narrowly religious. It pays for its one breath of decorum with additional circumspection in all other directions. I do not intend meetings, but I am a perfect lady. I express the present poverty of spirit. I knocked off a policeman's helmet, but I only want a little thing, a quite respectable little thing, a vote. This is a good one to hear. One joins to hear it. One joins to write it. But it is true."

And further on she says:

"Until the Women's Social and Political Union had been transformed into a triumphant dictatorship, all women's suffrage societies were pledged to sex equality. They all demanded the franchise for women on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men. They asked for equal sex rights in voting. But the Women's Social and Political Union repudiated this claim. It flung away the basis of womanhood."

The Women's Freedom League is not spared. Mrs. Greig declares that it is a "stuffed" organization and has destroyed its own potentialities by a policy of weak opposition and weaker adulation.

Though Mrs. Billington Greig condemns militancy, she admits it has undoubtedly hastened the day of suffrage legislation.

After the attacks of the men artists upon the modern woman's figure, comes the woman portrait painter who declares that there are distinct signs of decadence in the sculpture now. Such is the opinion of Miss Maud Porter, a society portrait painter.

One reason for it, she thinks, is "that men are taken straight from school and put into occupations for which they are unfitted and for which they have no taste. They become discontented and take no pleasure in their work, and their looks suffer accordingly."

A woman novelist says: "Half the men I meet clearly eat too much, to judge from their figures."

The real British sportsman, I mean him who lives healthily open air lives and does every kind of excess, as good as doing as ever their ancestors were, are probably handsomer, for the hard working of former days soon made its mark. British army and navy men are generally speaking, as handsome as any you could wish, perhaps the best looking in the world.

But the average London business man, and the leader of all classes, cannot walk and hold himself properly and has dull, unattractive features, with a slack or prominent figure."

An interesting exhibition is being held by the British Museum in connection with the forthcoming observance of the centenary of the Authorized Version of the English Bible. The exhibition will be divided into two parts, manuscripts and printed books. The manuscripts will illustrate the history of the Bible from the very earliest times, starting with examples of Hebrew and Greek originals, and ending with the Latin Vulgate, which was the Bible into English.

The printed or book section will start with the first example of a printed Bible in England, the Lindisfarne New Testament, printed in 1476.

books of the British Museum, said in an interview that the exhibition would, of course, include the well known Biblical curiosities.

"We shall," he said, "exhibit the Vinegar Bible, the Treacle Bible, and the Wicked Bible. The Vinegar Bible was a misprint for vineyard; the Treacle Bible owes its name to the phrase treacle in Gilead; appearing in place of balm in Gilead. And the Wicked Bible is so called because the printers omitted the 'not' in the Seventh Commandment."

"To take the early texts of the Bible first, we have among our manuscripts one great treasure, a text called the Codex Alexandrinus. This manuscript was presented by a Sultan of Turkey to Charles II."

"Two other great codices, of early manuscripts, we shall show in facsimile: the Sinaiticus and the Vaticanus. Sinaiticus was discovered in a monastery on Mount Sinai by the great scholar Tischendorf."

"One Biblical curiosity we shall not be able to exhibit, we don't know where it is. Many years ago, as you may remember, a certain Dr. Shapira came here with a new but professedly very ancient text of the Old Testament. It was in Hebrew, and the text was inscribed on leaves of leather. I think the Shapira Bible contained a new Commandment, if not two. The price demanded was £1,000,000."

"The whole thing was a forgery. We submitted the leather leaves to Dr. Ginsburg and a learned French scholar and they penetrated the mystery. Some of the Syrian Jews have old leather manuscripts of the Old Testament. These leather manuscripts have large lower margins, and Shapira had cut off these margins from the synagogue rolls that he had obtained and then had forged his text upon them. I forget whether Dr. Shapira hanged himself or broke his neck by falling down stairs, but we have no copy of his leather Bible."

Prof. Koldewey, who for eleven years has been engaged in excavating the site of ancient Babylon for the German Orient Society, has published an interesting account of last year's work. This work was divided between the private houses of the city, the fortifications, the citadel "Kasr," with palace and connected buildings, and finally the sacred precincts of the Tower of Babel. Results of importance were obtained in all four quarters.

The part of the outer fortifications which was laid bare shows the massive character of this work. Each side of the wall was six kilometers long. Almost the whole southern side of the inner town wall has been excavated. Originally this wall was directly connected with the fortifications of the citadel. The southern part of the citadel has nearly all been uncovered. This part is oldest, and here, overbuilt by Nebuchadnezzar's later palace extensions, lie the remains of the Euphrates quay walls of Sargon and Nabopolassar.

After the completion of Nebuchadnezzar's palace extensions this part of the citadel served as the private residence of the king, the offices of the court, the private dwellings of the palace officials and the Government offices being further to the west.

"Here," says Prof. Koldewey, "is the hall where Nebuchadnezzar was crowned and the scene of Belshazzar's feast. It was here also that Alexander gave his generals the last commands for the conquest of the world."

The fourth object of investigation, the "Sachin," lies between the citadel and the hill Anran. The precinct of the Tower of Babel is a square with sides of about 400 meters divided into several compartments. On all four sides are large entrances, mostly with courts on the outside. Probably in these courts collected the spectators or participants in processions. Into the walls were built towers vertically fluted at short intervals. Remains of 400 of these towers have already been excavated, but the total number was probably a thousand.

"Here," says Prof. Koldewey, "there is no trace of grace, but only might and power, great numbers and great masses." This style of architecture will probably also be found in the Tower of Babel, the excavation of which," says the professor, "we now aspire to and expect."

To these particular ruins refers a not fully deciphered Babylonian inscription, giving the measurements of various edifices. It is hoped that when the excavations are complete a comparison of the inscription with the ruins will completely elucidate the Babylonian standard of measurement.

Should women attend prizefights? The question has been raised by the presence of a number of women at a recent boxing contest held in London.

Those who regard a prizefight as a spectacle too brutalizing even for grown men to witness will of course be in violent opposition to the idea that women can benefit in any degree by attending such an entertainment. On the other hand, Eugene Corri, the well known referee, declares that boxing in England offers a very pretty display of skill and an exhibition of endurance, and that no woman can watch the display of those qualities under absolutely fair conditions without herself receiving benefit.

Switzerland is the first country which has fixed by law the compensation which a married woman may rightly claim for keeping her husband's home. Not only may she claim under this new law one-third of the husband's earnings but she may also dispose of one-third of his fortune or property in any way she may think fit.

It is of course only in rare cases that a wife goes to law to demand her rights in a matter of this kind, and most Swiss married couples are content to keep to the ordinary domestic arrangements in the distribution of household funds, but economists have been trying to figure out whether one-third of a married man's income is not too high a proportion to surrender to the unrestricted jurisdiction of the wife.

The peaceful old University of Heidelberg has suddenly become fiercely agitated over the woman question, and two of its most eminent professors are about to fight a duel on the matter.

Last week Privatdozent Arnold Ruge, in a lecture on political economy spoke somewhat severely of the new woman movement, which he said was promoted by "old maids, childless women, widows, and Jewesses," but eschewed by those who are true mothers in the best sense of the word. He was not aware that

in his audience was Frau Marianne Weber, wife of a professor and a prominent author and a leading member of the German Women's Emancipation League.

She requested Prof. Ruge to withdraw his statement, but when he explained that he had not the woman of Heidelberg in mind and that he referred to the movement in general Frau Weber retorted that he was guilty of an unworthy subterfuge, and that his utterances were the product of an immature mind, which is about the worst insult that can be inflicted upon a German university professor.

Prof. Ruge, on leaving the hall, went to find Prof. Weber, and asked him whether he agreed with his wife, and if so whether he would kindly name his second? The husband accepted the challenge.

Meanwhile the academical council has interposed to have the affair settled peacefully, but in vain. The students are taking sides in the matter and duels between them are of daily occurrence.

In curious contrast to this German incident stands the experience of Mile. Helene Miropolsky, the prettiest and one of the cleverest of the women lawyers in Paris, who received a public proposal of marriage at the conclusion of a lecture she delivered in the Theatre Michel the other day.

She had declared that feminism did not drive woman from love and marriage, and that many women who worked as lawyers, as doctors and in other professions did so because love had not come to them.

"It is unfair," said the lecturer, amid loud applause, "to consider us incapable of love or of marriage because we work for a living."

When she sat down a Paris society man rose from his stall, and in front of an amused and excited audience made a formal proposal for Mile. Miropolsky's hand in marriage. He was firmly but politely refused.

Mile. Miropolsky caused a sensation in the public court this week by describing her client, charged with swindling, as an old man.

"Gentlemen," she said in tragic tones, "I appeal for all your mercy on behalf of my client. He is a poor old man, he is 50 years of age."

The judge, who is 57, sat bolt upright indignantly, while gray haired barristers watching the case looked hurt, and the public prosecutor, who is only 43, raised his arm above his head in silent protest. Even the prisoner himself wore an annoyed expression; but Mile. Miropolsky went on with her eloquent appeal and was frankly surprised when the "poor old man of 50" was sentenced to three months imprisonment. Mile. Miropolsky herself is only 23.

The reelection of Henri Brisson as President of the Chamber of Deputies is a sign that the parliamentary work of the year will begin with anti-clericalism. All the men of M. Combes's party voted for him. Premier Briand saw the way the wind was blowing and in consequence announced to the House that the school bills would be taken first, then electoral reform, then the civil servants' statute, and finally the naval programme. That is, State secularism in France is put first and the national defenses last.

M. Briand's health of late has not been good. Since the railway men's revolt the strain on him has been great and it is quite possible that the Premier has allowed his hand to be forced by the radical Socialists, all of whom are militant anti-clericals. The Bishops having recently placed under interdiction a number of Republican organs notorious for their attacks on religion, anger has been aroused, and in all probability the legislative measures to be adopted will be particularly drastic.

There is more in M. Brisson's reelection to the presidential chair of the Chamber than meets the eye. Had the elegant Paul Deschanel been elected instead of his veteran competitor, who is 76, he would have been a formidable candidate for the Presidency of the Republic. M. Fallieres's term of office is up in two years and speculation is already busy with the name of his successor.

There is a strong feeling that the next Chief Magistrate should be taken from the lower house instead of from the Senate, whence came both M. Loubet and M. Fallieres. Obviously the present President of the Chamber is too old to face the septennate, but M. Deschanel is a comparatively young man and possesses the physical dignity that belonged to Cassimir Perier, Carnot and Felix Faure. The Independent Socialists defeated him by counting on their support, but at the last minute they failed him and cast their suffrages for Jules Guesde, one of their own leaders, whose leadership they only acknowledged spasmodically.

French taxpayers are confronted with the pleasant reflection that they will soon be supporting a million State functionaries. According to the official report of the budget commission the number of officeholders has reached 608,121 and is growing each year.

During the last fifty years the army of State paid officials has increased at the rate of 4,000 a year, or 110 per cent. for the half century, while the population of France has only increased by some 10 per cent., and civil service salaries have risen from \$10,000,000 to \$137,500,000 annually.

The Gauls asks if this army of functionaries is really needed. The paper points out that technical inventions have simplified labor in almost every field of human activity except in the working of the Governmental machinery.

It admits of course that Government departments such as the postal and the telegraph service fully warrant increased staffs, but there is no justification, it argues, for such huge expenditure in other branches. The Gauls contends that it would be better for France if fewer but better paid officials were engaged who would do more and better work.

The ideal of the French middle class citizen is to get an easy, well paid job under the Government entitling him to a pension, and doubtless a good deal of the French taxpayers' money could be saved if sinecures were abolished, but it would need a strong man to undertake this task.

Sabotage is a subtle strike method which is causing no little perturbation in France at the present time. Complaints of delays in the delivery of goods by railroads are accumulating and ques-

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